

SAF/LLZ (Legislative Research Team)

HASTERT, J. Dennis (Republican)
Representative, 14th District, Illinois
Elected 1986 to 100th Congress
Reelected to succeeding Congresses



BACKGROUND

Born: Aurora, Illinois – 2January 1942

Home: Yorkville, Illinois

Marital Status: Married (Jean Kahl) - 2 children

Religion: Methodist

Education: Wheaton College, B.A., 1964; Northern Illinois University, M.A., 1967

Military: None

Profession: Teacher and wrestling coach, 1964-80; partner, Clock Tower Restaurant, Plainfield,

IL

Political: IL House, 1981-87. Defeated Mary Lou Kearns by less than 7,000 votes to succeed the ailing Rep John E. Grotbert (R) who retired and later died. In 1978, interned for his predecessor. Reelected in 1998 with 69.8% of the vote and in 2000 with 74%. Chief Deputy Minority Whip, US House of Representatives, 1995-99; Speaker since 106th Congress.

Rep Hastert, a conservative, worked behind the scenes on party issues and was unknown to most Americans until he became Speaker in the 106th Congress.

In the 103rd Congress, selected to be the Republican House member on Hillary Clinton's health-care task force. Argued for funds in the President's budget for the Argonne, IL labs for research in advanced nuclear reactor programs.

In the 106th Congress, identified four big challenges that face the country: retirement and health security, education and a drug-free environment, the economy, and national security. Stated that the US needs a defense capability that matches the threat of the sudden violence of a terrorist bomb, the silent threat of biological weapons or the threat of a rogue state aiming a deadly missile at a US city. Remarked that our country has asked military personnel to take on assignments in various parts of the globe, but they have not been given the best equipment or preparation to match those assignments; believed that situation must be corrected. Insisted that the military budget must be increased to improve the quality of life for military personnel and their families. Stated that the missile defense bill makes it a national priority for the US to develop a missile defense system capable of protecting us from the threat of enemy missiles. Pointed out that national defense is among the most important roles of the Federal Government and stated that this is why Congress will continue to support the military and give troops the funding they need to defend America and her interests. Appointed to the Joint Congressional Cmte on Inaugural Ceremonies. Expressed support for a supplemental appropriations that included funding for defense.

In the 107th Congress, expressed support for a budget resolution he said contains a historic increase in defense spending. Also noted that funding was included for homeland security to provide for the next contingency. In early 2001 stated "we have done a good job of providing for more resources for our men and women in uniform, but we can do better. It is still a dangerous world out there, and our defensive capabilities must improve to keep our citizens safe." Expressed support for H. J. Res. 64, war powers resolution to respond to September 11. Has become very interested in the Boeing aircraft lease issue since Boeing moved its headquarters to Chicago.

AF Bases: None

COMMITTEES

None (ex officio member of INTELLIGENCE)